

the privilege of singleness

MATTHEW 19:8-12 & 1 CORINTHIANS 7

Week of February 26, 2012

Message 3

It seems like churches are always talking about families, kids, and marriages. If you are single, please share your perspective with the rest of the group. What's it like to be single in today's world?

Are there things that churches and Christian couples could be doing to better challenge and encourage you?

Read Matthew 19:8-12

In light of Jesus' teaching on divorce, what do the disciples say about marriage?

Does Jesus support or deny their statement?

A eunuch is someone who is physically incapable of having sexual relations whether by deformity or castration. In talking about eunuchs, Jesus is making a clear connection between people who don't or can't have sex and people who are unmarried.

What are the three reasons Jesus gives for a person's celibacy? How are those three circumstances evident in our world today?

1 Corinthians 7

Read 1-9. Paul also creates a clear connection between sexuality and marriage such that marriage requires sex and singleness requires celibacy. What does Paul mean when he says, "I wish that all men were as I am"?

Calling his own self-control for singleness a gift from God, Paul mentions at least three benefits of singleness. Put those three benefits into your own words.

- v. 25-28:
- v. 29-31:
- v. 32-35:

The Big Idea: Those who are not married are emotionally free to build an eternal, undivided devotion to God.

Take it Home

What would Paul and Jesus have to say about modern dating relationships?

As you understand it, what is the biblical way to view singleness?

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